CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

Vol. 21, No. 8 TORONTO 2, CANADA June 22nd, 1929

WATCH FOR HIM NEXT WEEK!

The Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Annual Announcement for 1929-30 appears in Motion Picture News, issue of June 29th and Exhibitors Herald, issue of June 29th, both out next week. This represents the most important Announcement of product that M-G-M has ever made to the industry.

PUBLISHED BY

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED

259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

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Be one and enjoy life!

IT'S been a great year for M-G-M exhibitors
THEY can afford the good things of life—
THEY go places and do things—
THEY get rich with pictures like these (*all in one season*)

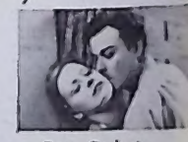
THE BROADWAY MELODY—*World's Greatest Talking Hit!*

THE TRIAL OF MARY DUGAN—*Norma Shearer's First All-Talkie*

THE IDLE RICH
The "White Collars" Talking Picture

William Haines in
ALIAS JIMMY VALENTINE

Gilbert-Garbo in
A WOMAN OF AFFAIRS



Greta Garbo in
WILD ORCHIDS

William Haines in
THE DUKE STEPS OUT

Ramon Novarro in
THE PAGAN

Clarence Brown's
WONDER OF WOMEN

Joan Crawford in
OUR DANCING DAUGHTERS

Ramon Novarro in
THE FLYING FLEET

WHITE SHADOWS
in the South Seas

This Year and Every Year!

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

It's a pleasure!

RED HOT

(No. 642—Straight from the Shoulder Talk by Carl Laemmle, President of the Universal Pictures Corporation)

THROW AWAY YOUR CRUTCHES, OLD TIMER!

JERK THE OLD KINK OUT OF YOUR BACK, TOSS YOUR LUMBAGO OUT OF THE window, and—in the language of the modern generation,—GET HOT!

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE YOUR YOUTH RENEWED WHEN YOU SEE THE WORLD'S very first all-talking, all-singing and all-everything college picture—ready now at all Universal exchanges!

THAT'S "COLLEGE LOVE"!

IF YOU EVER SAW RED HOT PEP, YOUTH, BEAUTY, GINGER AND SNAP, YOU'LL see it in "College Love".

AS THE TITLE EXPLAINS, IT IS A STORY OF LOVE IN COLLEGE; AND IN AND AROUND the story there is woven just about every interesting event that could happen when young bloods get together—meaning both the male and the female of the species!

FOR INSTANCE, THAT COLLEGE GLEE CLUB! WHAT A MEAN MINOR CHORD IT CAN sling—not the old fashioned barber-shop chords, but the up-to-the-minute jazzboritis, full-of-the-devil, rollicking, harmonizing that can come only from young hearts and young throats.

IF YOU HAVE A SYMPATHETIC TOE, IT WILL WANT TO DO A LOT OF WIGGLING of its own when the tuneful, peppy, tricky melodies are poured out from the screen as naturally as from life itself.

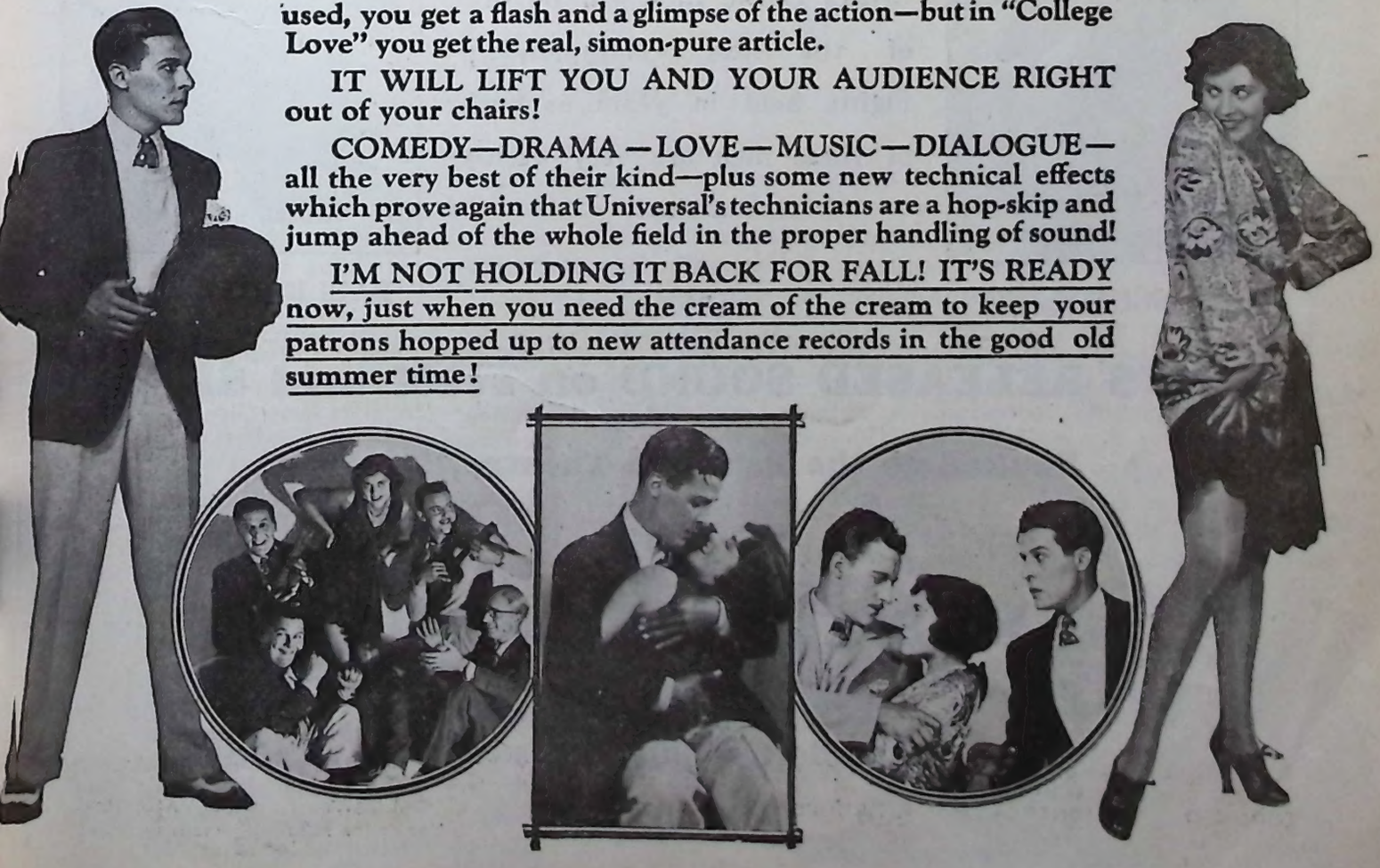
DIRECTED BY NAT ROSS, WITH CARL LAEMMLE, JR. AS ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, AND with a cast as young as youth can be—it is packed with joie de vivre which is Irish, Swedish or Russian for gosh-aint-it-good-to-be-alive!

AND THE GRAND WIND-UP IS THE CORKINGEST FOOT-BALL GAME YOU EVER SAW in all your born days. Nothing so good has ever been screened. In most pictures where a football game is used, you get a flash and a glimpse of the action—but in "College Love" you get the real, simon-pure article.

IT WILL LIFT YOU AND YOUR AUDIENCE RIGHT out of your chairs!

COMEDY—DRAMA—LOVE—MUSIC—DIALOGUE—all the very best of their kind—plus some new technical effects which prove again that Universal's technicians are a hop-skip and jump ahead of the whole field in the proper handling of sound!

I'M NOT HOLDING IT BACK FOR FALL! IT'S READY now, just when you need the cream of the cream to keep your patrons hopped up to new attendance records in the good old summer time!



"Exclusive Pictures"

OF

The Great International Heavyweight Boxing Contest

Held in New York, Thursday, June 27th, 1929

MAX SCHMELING

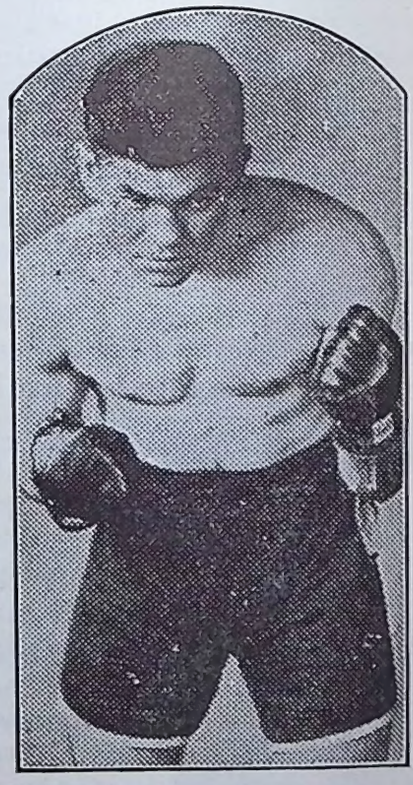
Between

Max Schmeling

and

Paulino Uzcudun

Critics claim this will be one of the Best Championship Fights held in years as both of these men are very evenly matched.



PAULINO UZCUDUN

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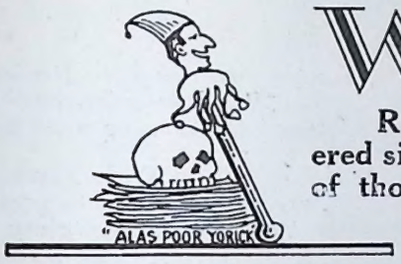
Subscription: $5.00 yearly
Telephone: Trinity 1481
Cable: Ontocanada

RAY LEWIS
Editor and Managing Director

Published by Canadian Moving Picture Digest Company, Limited
259 Spadina Ave. - Toronto
London Office
80-82 Wardor St., W 1

Vol. 21, No. 8 | TORONTO 2, CANADA | June 22nd, 1929

"Alice Did Not Talk"



WE HAVE generally accepted a statement about the inclination of women to talk as a truth beyond any point of interrogation.

Running parallel with this bewhiskered axiom, bewhiskered since it is essentially of male origin and belief, is another of those unchallenged fallacies namely, that women cannot keep a secret.

Another mental aberration which meets the other two, is that women are not friendly to each other.

Apropos of all these preliminaries is a desire to prove that women do not talk half as much as men, for women scarcely ever boast of their conquests, those really accomplished; and those which have no foundation, being but an inclination on the part of a human Chanticleer to do a little crowing.

Most men in business know that women can keep a secret; and that women in important business positions never betray confidence. As for the unfriendly attitude attributed to women in their relationship to each other, if this is so, it is because the fathers, brothers, husbands have started talking about some woman, or women, and instructed the feminine members of their family to "cut her."

And now to "Hecuba" should Censors Talk? I am here referring to Censors of Motion Pictures engaged by the government to represent the people, and therefor, in making public statements, they lead one to infer that their statements are backed up by the Government and the people.

Alice Fairweather hails from St. John, Miss Alice has been associated with The Digest as correspondent for many years.

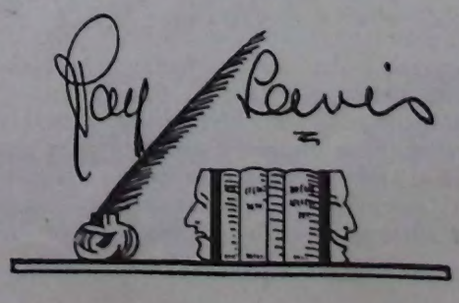
Miss Alice was appointed a member of the Censor Board for the Maritime. Provinces.

When this charming lady visited Toronto last year, I endeavoured to find out what was the relationship between the Censor Boards throughout the Dominion; and how Miss Alice felt about certain legislative measures, etc., etc.

I also made enquiries in connection with the Quota situation, but "Alice would not talk" for publication, and although she expressed various opinions, it was understood that these were in the nature of private disclosures, for said Alice, possessing that beautiful commonsense which is as natural to woman as it is unusual in men, "My position on the Censor Board restricts what I might say for publication, lest my opinion be construed as the opinion of the Board in general; and it is not within the Board's jurisdiction to pass opinions. Our duty is restricted to the examination of pictures according to certain rulings."

"Alice did not talk," and yet she is a woman. The Chairman of our Ontario Censor Board might take a profitable lesson from a woman, who officiated in a similar capacity, although the position of Chancellor Boylan is a much more delicate one in its public relations, since he is the Chairman of our Ontario Censor Board, and Miss Alice is only a member of a Censor Board.

The statements attributed to Chancellor Boylan in the Montreal Star, which talk about good British pictures failing to come here because the control of the Industry is in the hands of a syndicate, unfriendly to British pictures one must infer, indicates clearly that men talk too much; and that Censor Boards should restrict their activities to the office for which they have been elected.



RAY PRESENTS

RAY LEWIS

THE ST. JOHN Telegraph Journal of N.B., has an interesting article from London, headed "Talkies Alarm Film Producers." The article goes on to state that since the "invasion of the American Talking Pictures," the British film shareholders have lost seven million dollars.

Equipment to the value of $75,000,000 has outlived its modern usefulness practically overnight, owing to the development of the American Talking Pictures. The Star published statistical figures revealing that only eleven British films had been produced this year in comparison with thirty-three in the first producing period company, leaving a total of seven for the other thirteen of 1928. Of the eleven, four were produced by one British studios.

The production schedules in order to live up to Quota requirements call for forty films to be produced during May.

The President of the Film Artists Guild states that under such conditions, hundreds of extras are "facing the government's dole for the unemployed." It is also stated that many of Britain's best screen artists have had no work since February.

The Star in commenting on the situation remarks, "The British Film Producing Industry is back where it was in the days before the war. It has suffered a more severe blow than any of our industries in the last generation."

THE PESSIMISTIC note sounds somewhat exaggerated. In fact, we know that the Star, the English newspaper we are referring to, and not our Toronto Star, appears to have overlooked sixteen British pictures in the course of production, and close to one hundred scheduled for production. There has been, and is, a considerable slackening in British production owing to the fact that studios are being equipped and rebuilt for the production of Sound Pictures. There has also, according to a report in the Kinematograph Weekly of June 6th, been over fifty British productions Trade shown, but not generally released.

The British Film Industry can never go back to the inert condition in which it found itself during the war. The production of British Pictures has improved over 100%, not only in quality, but in number.

The introduction of Talking Pictures occurred at a period in the life of the British Industry when it was beginning to make itself felt. It is not surprising that an innovation which shook the entire structure of the U. S. Film Industry, revolutionizing all its departments, should find the British Film Industry not nearly as firmly entrenched, nor as solidly organized, somewhat "at sea" in regard to its introduction.

But since it is a British tradition to "Rule The Seas," it is quite likely that the British Film Industry will find itself in command of its "All at sea problem" in the very near future!

MEANWHILE, World Wide, Gaumont, Gainsborough, are all preparing to present talking pictures. Word Wide has given us several of them, and "Jaydee" has been most busy in England launching his British Talking enterprise.

THE TORONTO TELEGRAM is responsible for a statement which makes Motion Pictures seven thousand years old. Older than Methusaleh, older than Father Abraham, older than Noah.

The information will prove somewhat startling to the press which has been calling us an "Infant Industry," "Some Baby!"

It is said that in 5000 B.C., the Chinese had what was equivalent to Motion Pictures in the introduction of "Shadow Shows." The Chinese made figures of wax, reports the Toronto Telegram, "exquisitely modelled and dressed, a few inches in height and flung the shadows from these on buffalo skin, rendered transparent."

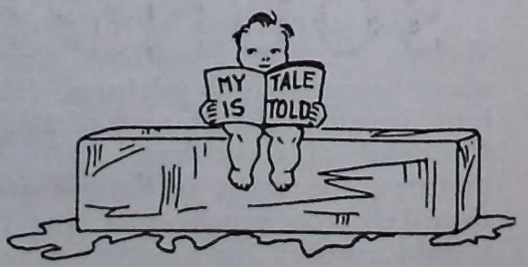
So it appears that the Chinese started this "Movie Craze," and they have evidently been in Motion Pictures ever since, ask Anna May Wong in "Piccadilly."

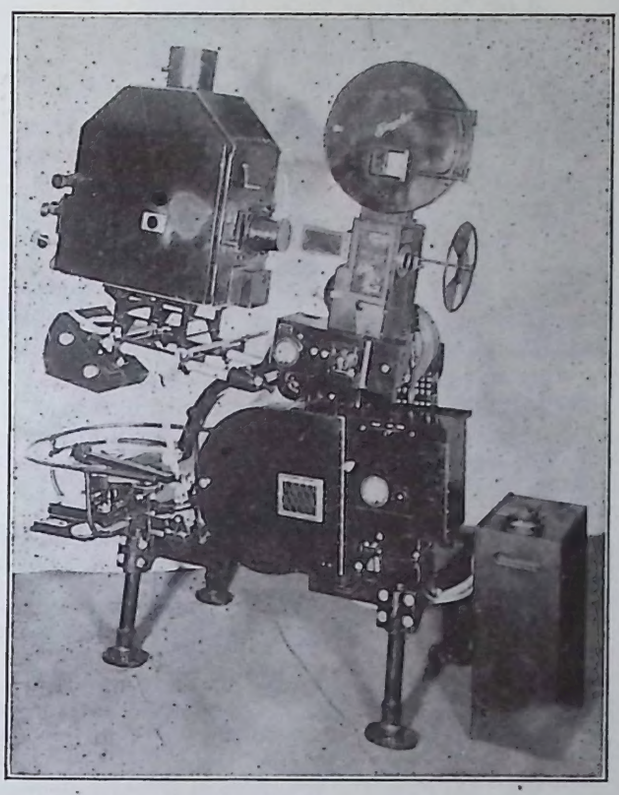
It is further stated that a set of these figures used in the Chinese "Movies" is to be found in the British Museum.

IN 1833 the fantascope performed the function of Motion Pictures. It is said to have had a circular dial on which there was a series of pictures. The whirling of this dial created an illusion of motion in the figures. The Viviscope followed and elaborated upon the preceding idea, the pictures were whirled on a band and a peep-hole was provided for the spectator.

The praxinoscope followed, pictures were reflected from the inside of a wheel to another wheel equipped with mirrors, this led to the invention of the lantern projector.

The filoscope, thumb-flick books, "which produced the illusion of motion when the leaves of the book were flicked with the thumb," was the next Infant of the Industry.





A standard moving picture projector equipment for disc and film reproduction.

Sound Pictures Increase Box Office Receipts

NORTHERN ELECTRIC Sound projector equipment allows you to show the latest productions in the moving picture field. It has proven a success in every theatre where it has been installed.

This system gives you the unrestricted privilege to play the productions of the following licensees:

Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc.
Fox Film Corporation.
Paramount Famous Lasky Corporation.
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures Corporation.
United Artists Corporation.
First National Pictures, Inc.
Universal Pictures Corporation.
Hal Roach Studios, Inc.
Columbia Pictures Corporation.
Harold Lloyd Corporation.
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Suitable equipments of both synchronous and non-synchronous types are available.

Write direct to the Research Products Department for full information.

Northern Electric SOUND SYSTEM

The VOICE of ACTION

NORTHERN ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED
Research Products Department
637 Craig Street West
Montreal

Looking Them Over

"Movietone Follies" and "The Divine Lady"

Scene from "The Divine Lady" starring Corinne Griffith.

"MOVIETONE FOLLIES," Fox, Tivoli, Tom Daley, Manager. This is a real Follies Show as we have become accustomed to that word in association with the Musical Road Shows, now few and far between.

The Follies is a girl show, a song and dance show, an extravaganza built for the same purpose as its stage foster-sister.

All the specialties which are presented in the stage shows are presented here, only the screen can give you many more flashes by way of settings than the stage can.

PERHAPS this is what makes "Movietone Follies" so entertaining. It is a change to have the camera do a little travelling for its entertaining. The talking pictures have had a tendency to restrict their action to a limited amount of space; and this has a tendency to make Talking Pictures at times not as spirited in action as the Silent pictures.

"MOVIETONE FOLLIES" gets over this deficiency of action by giving its audience plenty of changes in sets. The songs, dances, novelties, are most entertaining. The great hit to my mind is the "darkie porter," Stepin Fetchit. His character walks out of the theatre with you, it is so natural, so humanly possible, and so amusing. Certainly for individuality this part registered as "It."

THE GIRLS are shapely and nifty in their steps. A very big show for all houses in general, especially the smaller houses which do not get a chance to see the big Road Shows, and an excellent picture for big city time.

"THE DIVINE LADY," First National, Corinne Griffith, Uptown, Nelson Shea, Manager. Reviewed in The Digest, when it was first Trade shown. It is hard to surpass this picture for pictorial beauty; and one does not miss the dialogue, there are so many gorgeous sets; and so much action.

CORINNE was never more beautifully picturized than as Lady Hamilton. The dying scene of Nelson, and the love scene, which is reflected in this death scene, and which occurs early in the picture, are so beautifully romantic, so poetical and imaginative that they surely leave nothing to be desired. These two scenes are as perfect in their presentation as any two scenes could be; and from such a standpoint of perfection establish a precedent. The English atmosphere is here; and "The Divine Lady" should be what I would call "a natural" for the British Empire.

SHEA'S—Manager C. J. Appell. "His Private Life," starring Adolphe Menjou, and released by Paramount.

PANTAGES—Manager Fred Shafer. "Lady of the Pavements," starring Lupe Velez, William Boyd, and Jetta Goudal. United Artists release.

LOEW'S—Manager Jules Bernstein. "Where East is East," starring Lon Chaney and Estelle Taylor. A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production.

Government Control of Industry?

THE WESTERN TRIBUNE, of Vancouver, B. C., has an editorial in its June 1st issue, headed, "Government Control of Movie Industry May Come Soon." The editorial is as follows:

"There is at present a movement, the object of which is to have the Governments—federal and provincial—control the moving picture industry of Canada. We are reminded of the fact that representatives from all the producer-distributor organizations and exhibitors in the United States met recently to consider the problems which it is proposed to hand over to the Governments in our Dominion. At the conference to which we refer it was decided that certain subjects must be treated so as not to be vulgar or suggestive. Among these items were arson, the use of firearms, robbery and dynamiting, the technique of committing murder, the use of drugs, excessive kissing, surgical operations, and the institution of marriage. A glance over the advertising of films playing at present in Vancouver or any other city will show how far the "resolutions" of the movie magnates have been given a passing thought by producers. Imagine movies without the use of firearms or without the widely-advertised kisses of famous screen-lovers!

"Yet our imagination is equal to the task of viewing a splendid future for the moving picture industry in Canada if the Government supervision is placed in the hands of a committee both intelligent and possessed of discrimination in matters affecting art. For the moving picture has an art of its own. Germany has proved this fact by the production of films which set a marvellously high standard from the point of view of both drama and picturization. The movie should be able to live long and prosper on its own merits without the aid of jazz orchestras or semi-nude ballets. Under Government control, provided this control is delegated to artists, it may become worthy of the beauty that is possible through the use of the camera."

The Dominion Theatre, one of the older houses in Vancouver, B.C., re-opened June 17 as a talking picture theatre, after being remodelled, enlarged and redecorated throughout, the changes being substantial.

Ratepayers of Smiths Falls, Ontario, by a vote of four to one, defeated the referendum for the adoption of Daylight Saving there for the remainder of the summer. Opposition to the project was led by exhibitors of Eastern Ontario.

Observations — The Spotlight — By The Editor

PAUL KAMIN, shareholder of Standard Theatre, Dundas and Spadina, has filed notice at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, to present a petition for the winding up of the Standard Theatre Limited, incorporated January of 1921, authorized capital $250,000, divided into 5,000 par value $50,00, of which $95,700 are said to be allotted and $86,777 is paid up. The petitioner is reported as a shareholder to the extent of $10,000. He claims that the capital stock of the company is impaired and not likely of any improvement.

* * *

THE BOARD OF CONTROL of Toronto was advised by Assessment Commissioner Farley that it would cost the city $850,000 to secure the city block bounded by Albert, Bay, Louisa and Elizabeth Streets. A further inquiry was made relative to the cost of purchasing Shea's Hippodrome on Bay Street, north of Queen and one block west of Yonge Street.

* * *

Shea's Hippodrome is announcing that it will open with Sound Pictures, Saturday, June 29th, and that the new weekly program commences Saturday in place of Monday.

* * *

STARTING June 29 Keith's Theatre, Ottawa, under the management of J. M. Franklin, will introduce its new policy of first run synchronized pictures, discontinuing the five acts of vaudeville which this theatre has been presenting.

* * *

THE IMPERIAL, St. John, purchased by the Famous Players Canadian Corp., from Mr. E. F. Albee, will introduce "Talkies" to its patrons.

Meanwhile the Famous Players Maritime expansion program is begining to function. The new million dollar theatre on the site of the old Majestic in Halifax is to be started immediately, while the Casino Theatre, in the north end of Halifax, one of the most important theatres of that city has entered into an operating arrangement with Famous Players.

* * *

A REPORT from Mexico City states that beginning in September of 1929 English titles in the federal district will be barred from use in Motion Picture theatres. Heretofor English and Spanish have been used.

* * *

THE COURT OF APPEALS of Quebec upheld the decision given by eleven former judges in a succession of appeals against the provincial law prohibiting the admittance of children under sixteen to theatres and motion picture houses. Twelve judges of Quebec have now upheld the Taschereau Bill which became law!

* * *

U. S. TALKING films are to be barred from Hungary until May 30th, 1930. This ruling was made by the National Cinema Owners' Association following a statement that the theatre owners of Hungary could not afford to make the installations.

Now some other country who cannot afford to make planes should get a traffic cop stationed in the skies!

THE AUSTRALIAN Government is offering a prize of $25,000 for the best moving picture produced in Australia between January, 1929, and March, 1930. Second prize $12,500, and third prize $7,500.

Additional prizes of $2,500 each for the two best scenarios which are offered. Good girl, Australia, or should it be good boy?

* * *

THE IMPERIAL, St. John, is to introduce Talking Pictures. Manager W. H. Golding announces that with the transfer of this property from the E. F. Albee Interests to the Famous Players, the house will be rechristened "Capitol" and will become one of the key houses on this circuit. Improvements will be introduced costing between $50,000 to $75,000. The theatre is likely to close in July in order that the refurnishing, etc., may take place.

* * *

THE UNIVERSAL Annual Convention will be held at the Ritz Carlton, Atlantic City. Mr. Carl Laemmle arrives on Saturday, June 22nd, the opening day.

* * *

MANAGER HARRISON of the O'Brien Opera House, Renfrew, Ont., is preparing his house for "Talkies," considerable changes are to be made in the interior structure of the house.

* * *

"Molly and Me," Tiffany's Talking hit with Belle Bennett, plays Loew's Theatre, Toronto, week of July 8th.

* * *

ARLIE MARKS CO. have been sued by Jerry Abrams, manager of the Classic Theatre, Cobalt, asking compensation to the extent of $200.00 for an alleged breach of contract.

According to the testimony of Mr. Abrams, the Marks Co. rented the theatre for March 20th, 21st, but cancelled on account of illness. The Plaintiff claims the company filled in these dates at Timmins and New Liskeard.

* * *

THE MILLION DOLLAR THEATRE which is to be given to the city of Guelph, by A. W. Cutten, millionaire, is likely, in addition to its other attractive features, to house a moving picture theatre. A full golf course is a part of the scheme in the building plans.

* * *

EUGENE M. FINN, of the Dominion Government Motion Picture Bureau staff, has been appointed to the position of chief photographer. Mr. Finn is widely known throughout Canada for the excellence of his photographic work. He has been associated with the Bureau since 1919 and has many times covered Canada photographically from Coast to Coast.

* * *

THE CAPITOL, which was recently opened by the Famous Players Canadian Corp., at North Bay, Ont., bids fair to become one of the circuit's big money-getters.

The location is in the heart of this growing city's business district. The front space has been utilized for offices and stores. The capacity is 1,200 with a mezzanine

(Continued on Page 12)

Vice-President Francis O'Byrne Explains Cinematographers Object

A COMMUNICATION from Mr. O'Byrne, Vice-President of the Canadian Society of Cinematographers and Photographers, contains some added information relative to the formation of this organization.

The first information came from the publicity bureau of the Association. In his communication to The Digest Mr. O'Byrne states that "This article having been composed and published without my knowledge, or approval does not express my sentiments, or the correct facts as to why the aforementioned Society was formed."

Mr. O'Byrne desires The Digest to publish the facts as he presents them in order to clear up any false impressions as to the motives of organization.

Here are Mr. O'Byrne's facts:

"The society was formed chiefly for the purpose of having an organization of experienced men co-operating together to raise the standards of cinematographic practice here, and to so direct and regulate the taking of motion pictures in this country that none but those technically capable and of good standing in the profession be encouraged to do motion picture camera work here.

It was felt that having an organized body responsible for the ability and the consistently respectable business practise of its members would do much to raise the ethics and practise of camera work here, and by this means help make this profession a force in the production of better pictures by Canadians, and so to reflect credit on the Motion Picture Industry here, and on Canada generally.

It was also hoped that an organization working along these lines would create a new respect for the Canadian Motion Picture Cameramen as the equal of any who might come from foreign parts, and thus create a demand for Canadian talent for production of pictures in Canada, thereby diminishing the inrush of cameramen from the other side of the border who in some cases have been known to come in and by a high pressure sales argument convince Canadian firms to contract with them for industrial or other pictures, then do a rush job — and perhaps a poor one; by the time the contracting party learned how they had been taken in, our high pressure salesman-cameraman was beyond effective reach, and the prestige of pictures made in Canada again lowered. The formation of the society, it is hoped will put an end to such poor business practises.

In conclusion I desire to point out that the question of salaries, and employment conditions, etc., as mentioned in the former article, enters in no important degree into the formation of the society, and that conditions in these respects here, and on the average for the present are sufficiently good, and in no respect warrant the conclusions one might draw from reading the previous article on conditions leading to formation of a regulating organization."

Acme moving picture projector (portable), latest type S.V.E. with gold glass shutter, 1,000 watt lamp and complete stereoptican for slides, also DeVry Camera with tilting tripod and pair of new Powers rewinds. All in practically new condition, cheap for quick sale.

Apply to
Irving Sourkes, 4530 Clarke St., Montreal, P.Q.

British International Capture Page Toronto Star Weekly

There was a full page article in the Toronto Star Weekly, Saturday, June 15th, by J. C. Nelson, headed "Elstree—The British Hollywood." A few paragraphs from this article will give you the keynote to the substance. "Elstere has suddenly been discovered." One day a few years ago some moving picture magnates, seeking a site for a new studio, found that Elstree enjoyed a marked freedom from fogs; while London groped through the murk of a real "pea souper," this village, a few miles out, went blithely about its business hampered by little more than a thin mist. So Elstree suddenly found herself a "star," picked for the leading role in the "Romance of the British Industry." (It was "Jaydee" Williams of World Wide who promoted British International.):

"Although a comparatively young company it has to its credit a number of artistic and box office successes—"The Ring," with Carl Brisson; "The Farmer's Wife;" "Moulin Rouge," a lavish spectacle on the De Mille principle; "Piccadilly," written specially for International by Arnold Bennett; "A Little Bit of Fluff," and more recently "The Manxman," from Sir Hall Caine's famous novel. Its directors include Alfred Hitchcock, a new genius recently risen in the movie firmament; E. A. Du-Pont, the competent German director of "Vaudeville;" Captain Norman Walker, Denison Cliff, Dr. Arthur Robison and a host of other newcomers.

It numbers among its stars Anna May Wong, Gilda Gray, Estelle Brody, Heather Thatcher, Nigel Barry, Carl Bisson and Alexandre D'Arcy, hailed by the press as another Valentino; and others who may be to the screen of to-morrow what Anita Stewart, the Talmadges, Pola Negri, Clara Bow, Richard Dix, Adolphe Menjou and Ronald Colman are to the screen of to-day.

Thirteen Films Sold in Year

This company is going into the movie game in no half-hearted spirit. It is spending money and, what's more, is getting results. The first year's production of thirteen films has already been sold for hundreds of thousands of pounds and advanced payment of £150,000. Twelve pictures have been sold to the United Motion Picture Producers Limited, who are even now establishing their own distributing exchanges in Canada and the United States. Britain's newly-born moving picture industry talks in terms of "big money." British International now think nothing of spending up to £50,000 on a single film. As a matter of fact, a year ago the average production cost of a British film was about £15,000. To-day it is between £40,000 and £50,000."

Starting June 22 all Orpheum and Keith houses in Canada, operating under the direction of the new Radio-Keith-Orpheum of Canada, Limited, are opening their shows on Saturdays instead of Mondays. For some time B. F. Keith's at Ottawa and the Imperial at Montreal have had Saturday openings but the remaining houses in other cities, particularly in the West, are now following suit.

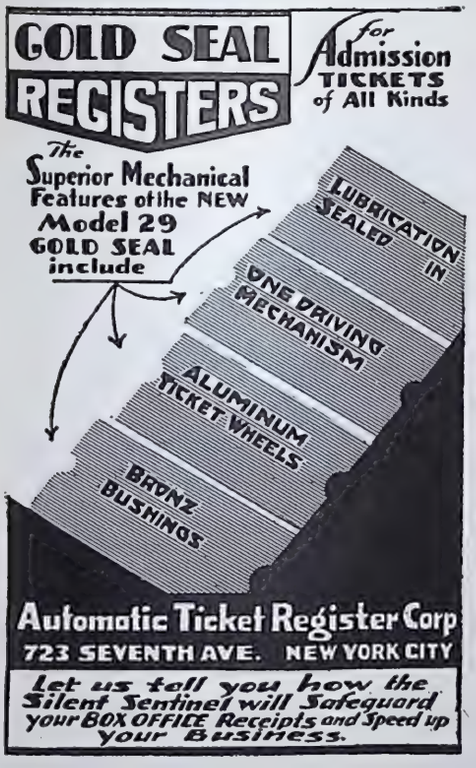
WANTED

Theatre Manager for town 5,000 population.

Apply Box 8, Digest.

ROYAL YORK ARRANGING TO SHOW PICTURES

The Royal York, Toronto's C.P.R. hotel, is arranging to show talking and sound pictures, installation to take place in the main convention hall No. 1. The cost of equipping is approximately $40,000. Equipment is also to be installed in convention hall No. 2, which can hold 4,000.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Let us tell you how the Silent Sentinel will Safeguard your BOX OFFICE Receipts and Speed up Your Business.

Sally O'Neil and Roland Drew in a scene from Tiffany's "Broadway Fever."

FAMOUS TAKE OVER BERRY THEATRES, B.C.

Famous Players Canadian Corp., has recently acquired the chain of theatres in British Columbia formerly owned by R. E. Berry, including the Kitsilano, Fourth Ave., Vancouver, Empress and Standard, Kamloops; Empress at Vernon, Empress at Kelowna, Empress at Penticton and Strand at Chilliwack.

The Kitsilano will be added to the suburban chain under the general managership of Frank Gow, who will have under his jurisdiction the Kitsilano, Kerrisdale, Regent, Broadway, Victoria Road, Windsor, Grandview, Fraser, Alma Road. Change of ownership took place June 10th.

Mr. Berry remains associated with Famous in an advisory capacity. He is a resident of Vancouver, and lives at Shaughnessy Heights.

Galt To Get Theatre Famous Players Interested

Galt, Ont., is to have a new theatre costing $160,000, which will open October 1st. It will be equipped for Sound Pictures, and will have a stage sufficiently commodious to take care of Road Shows. The site is on South Water St., opposite the post office. The Famous Players Canadian Corp. and local promoters are sponsoring the venture. The property was purchased from John McDonald. The footage, 109 ft. front and depth about 164 ft.

The agreement of building signed for the Galt promoters by R. O. McCulloch, George A. Dobbie, and Allan Holmes.

Seating capacity 1,100. It is said that the local investors put in $75,000, Famous $25,000 and the balance of cost raised by first mortgage.

FOR SALE

350 opera chairs for sale, very reasonable. Apply Box 11, Digest.

The Motiograph DeLuxe Projector

Acknowleged the best for "Sound" use because with five inches of light film tension, heavy, silent construction and the cylindrical shutter on the gate, the heat on the film, shoes, springs, parts and lenses is reduced 62%, fire danger is enormously lessened, and the film is maintained in perfect "Sound" condition. Why not have your "Sound" installation perfect? The De Luxe will do it.

THE CELCOPHONE TURNTABLE UNITS

$750.00 the pair including fader. Attach in a few minutes to your present projector. Constant speed and synchronization all that you could ask. Use your own amplifier and speakers or we will be glad to advise you in that respect.

A.C. Speedometers, $75.00 a pair. Stewart Warner Speedometer, $50.00 a pair.

THE COLEMAN ELECTRIC Co. - 258 Victoria St. - Toronto, Ont.

"Courtesy With Service"

Do Second Rate British Pictures Only Reach Here?

THE MONTREAL STAR reports an interview with Chancellor Boylan, Chairman of the Ontario Board of Censors.

The Chairman is quoted as having stated that although some wonderful pictures have been made in England in the past couple of years, only the second rate films are brought to Canada.

"Here in Canada, the Film Industry is absolutely controlled by one syndicate. They are the arbiters of a picture's fate. If they decide that they will not show a British picture in their houses, then there is nothing else to do but keep the film out of Canada. The usual result is that if a British film does come here the producers or distributors cannot make anything out of it."

"There have been cases where on a percentage basis, a British distributor has only been able to take 20 per cent, while the house gets 80 per cent. The usual basis is 40-60. This is the reason why only second class British films find their way to the market here."

MR. BOYLAN is to visit T. P. O'Connor, the British film censor during his stay in England. He is a member of the party which sailed on the Minnedosa, last Saturday for Stornway, from Montreal.

The Digest hopes that if the Montreal Star reported Mr. Boylan correctly, that he will not make similar statements in England relative to the importation of British pictures here, for we have had some of the best pictures made in England, distributed not only throughout Canada, its independent theatres, but over the circuit of the Famous Players.

WORLD WIDE has been most successful in its release of British Films, so has the Regal Films in the British pictures which it has continuously released.

Famous Lasky has also released some big ones. Educational made a specialty of British releases, the last big one, "Dawn" which played throughout Canada, finally winning over the Famous Players Canadian officials to give it play dates in several of its theatres. "Dawn" was a box-office hit wherever the Censors permitted it to be released.

Gaumont British have also had some notable success with "Carry On" and have released a program of its best pictures in Canada.

OBSERVATIONS

(Continued from Page 9)

balcony seating an additional three hundred. The stage can accommodate the biggest kind of road shows, the depth being 33 ft. with an 80 ft. width, proscenium opening 24 x 44 ft.

His Worship, Mayor E. L. Banner officiating at the opening.

* * *

THE NEW EMPRESS, Lloydminster, Sask., will open its doors early in July, when the new theatre makes its public bow, it will present all the new ideas embodied in modern equipment and theatre architectural design and fittings.

A CORRESPONDENT in the Manchester Guardian, England, writes some interesting information relative to Talking Pictures which corroborates King Solomon's contention that "There is nothing new under the sun." The correspondent states: "I was very much interested to read in your Manchester notes of the 16th of a correspondent remembering talkie films in Manchester 16 or 17 years ago. I remember them well. They included such items as dogs and the breaking of plates, and were as he states shown at the Oxford Picture House. I, however, can go farther back than that time. Nearly thirty years ago, before picture palaces were built all over England and the pictures were shown as part of a music hall turn, I remember seeing at the old Palace Theatre a film depicting the return of the C. I. V. from the South African War. The train was shown entering the station, and the noise of the train could be heard and the cheering of the crowds. The other film was a turnout of the fire brigade, when the clatter of the horses and the clanging of the bells could be heard. The next film of this sort I saw in Manchester was the one shown at the Oxford Picture House 12 or 13 years later."

* * *

IN AN INTERVIEW with Ernest Ouimet some time ago, this young, old-time exhibitor and distributor, informed me that he had presented Talking Pictures in Montreal years and years ago.

Mr. James Travis of Canadian Educational also tells a story of Talking Pictures presented in England in "Ye Good Olde Days."

* * *

COMPTROLLER BRAGG of Famous Players Canadian Corp. has returned to Toronto after a visit with Mrs. Bragg in England.

* * *

THE FIRST introduction of Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald's cabinet was through the medium of the screen. The cabinet members were grouped in the garden behind 10 Downing St., London, Mr. MacDonald used the microphone and introduced his cabinet as follows: "May I introduce to you the members of the Cabinet who have been chosen for very hard work, and because I believe the nation fully believes that they are competent." Each name was mentioned; and when Miss Margaret Bondfield's turn came, the Prime Minister said, "But the most unique is our friend, Margaret Bondfield, she is double first, the first woman to be admitted to the Privy Council, now the Right Hon. Margaret Bondfield. She is also the first woman in the Cabinet."

The Prime Minister continued to introduce Philip Snowdon who is Chancellor, Arthur Henderson, Foreign Secretary; John R. Clynes, Home Secretary; Lord Parmoor as Lord President of the Council. Tom Shaw in the War Office, Noel Buxton in charge of agriculture, Mr. Webb to look after the Dominion and the Colonies.

L. MacNeil Weir, member of Parliament for East Stirling is introduced as Parliamentary Secretary. Mr. Weir has been an actor, a teacher, an economist, a journalist and a sailor.

* * *

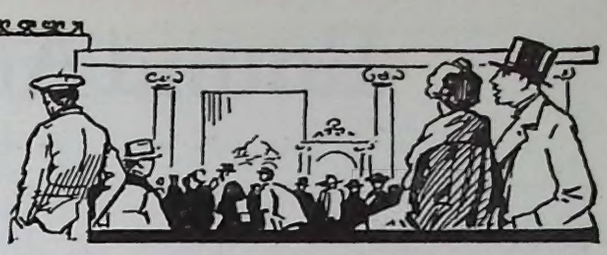
THE TIFFANY Productions' annual convention will be held in Detroit, June 27-28-29th. "Our Oscar" will be on deck, presiding at the "Round Table."

FOR SALE

1,000 Opera Chairs, in excellent condition.

Apply Frankel Salvage Co., Limited, Toronto.

Show Business



Events broke fast in Montreal, Quebec, over the week-end of June 15 following a lightning spread of sound picture installations. First the Princess Theatre, formerly leading stage theatre of Canada's largest city, opened with "The Iron Mask," the permanent policy of the Princess being now one of audible pictures for extended runs. Then Loew's Theatre, second largest theatre in Montreal, introduced the spoken screen, along with vaudeville, the attraction being "The Lights of the City." The Empress also introduced its sound installation with the presentation of the British audien, "One of the Best." The Empress is the leading theatre of Confederation Theatres, Limited. Still another Montreal house to introduce talking pictures was the Francais, a former French-stage theatre catering to the French population of the city. This theatre opened its sound era with "Syncopation."

Thus, no less than four Montreal houses, each formerly the leader in its respective sphere, turned to the "talkies" almost simultaneously.

The exhibitors of Montreal, Quebec, are working on an entirely new angle, following the decision of the courts that the new statute prohibiting the admission of children under 16 years of age from all moving picture theatres is valid and enforceable. The claim is now being made that, since children are barred from the cinemas, there is no longer need for moving picture censorship, and there is now the suggestion that the Quebec Board of Moving Picture Censors be abolished.

The suggestion is gaining ground rapidly, exhibitors taking up the cry on all sides, and it would not be surprising if the general public took up the demand. Already one statement has appeared in the newspapers, in part as follows:

"While there were grounds for the censorship of motion pictures so long as children were admitted to the picture theatres, no similar grounds exist for the emasculation of plays intended for adults. The adult population is quite capable of deciding for itself what is fit and what is not fit to be seen."

United Amusements, Limited, Montreal, has announced that construction has been started on its 15th theatre in Montreal, the site being at Monkland Boulevard and Girourd Avenue. The theatre will have Spanish atmospheric lines and will be designed for the presentation of audiens. The seating capacity is 1,800.

The annual convention of managers in Eastern Canada of Famous Players Canadian Corp., is scheduled to be held at the Clifton House, Niagara Falls, Ontario, on July 3, 4 and 5. As Famous Players has one or more theatres in every city and town in Ontario and Quebec, as well as a scattering in the Maritime Provinces, the representation will be extensive.

The first dog to make an airplane flight at Ottawa, Ontario, was "Lindbergh," the pet canine of Will McLaughlin, dramatic editor of the Ottawa Journal, who also occupied a place in the cockpit of the machine. Mr. McLaughlin is well known in film circles throughout the Dominion.

Arrangements for the establishment of R-K-O of Canada, Limited, throughout the Dominion were further provided for at a conference of representatives of Radio-Keith-Orpheum and Famous Players Canadian Corp. at Montreal. These included Clarence Robson, Eastern Division Manager; Ray Tubman, Manager of the two F-P houses in Ottawa, and J. M. Franklin of Ottawa, R-K-O Canadian representative.

Manager Weller of the Capitol Theatre, Trenton, Ontario, has been making a special play for rural patronage with excellent result, farmers being particularly in evidence during the summer season. Mr. Weller has been sending out circulars to all residents along the rural routes, paying one-half cent for each piece of mail matter delivered in this way. The farmers have been driving to town to see the current attractions and patronage has been very heavy on market days.

After trying out organ records with non-synchronous short subjects, T. R. Tubman, manager of the Regent, Ottawa, is making the open suggestion that film producers should bring out an occasional audien with organ accompaniment, recommending Jesse Crawford of the Paramount, New York, as the presiding artist.

Fire of unknown origin destroyed the large two-storey stone structure on June 14 at Merrickville, Ontario, which was the town hall and theatre combined. Although the fire took place in the afternoon, it gained considerable headway before it was noticed. The second floor was occupied by the theatre which was operated by C. Gravelle of Kemptville and his loss is estimated at $12,000. This is the second fire for Mr. Gravelle in recent months, his theatre at Kemptville having been burned.

A near-riot took place in B. F. Keith's Theatre, Ottawa, Ontario, on June 15 when deletion after deletion appeared in "The Bridge of San Luis Rey," the current screen attraction. This is a sound-on-record production and when the Ontario Board of Moving Picture Censors got through with it, it looked like the Battle of Santiago spelled backwards.

The incident was the culmination of a series of audible protests in Ottawa theatres and it necessitated action on the part of Manager J. M. Franklin who interjected a slide during the presentation of the feature to announce that the black gaps were the cuts made by the Ontario censors and that the disjointed condition of the film was not due to projection faults. This slide was repeated at all subsequent performances. Incidentally, the crowds on Saturday cheered when the explanatory slide was screened.

Mr. Franklin also issued a statement in which he declared: "The censors are ruining the sound pictures and something has got to be done. These cuts reflect against the picture, the star, the producer, the theatre and the whole industry. I believe the producers will have to come to the rescue with sound-track films so that censor deletions will be less noticeable."

Round About the Studios

In production at the Pathe studios are "The Awful Truth," Ina Claire's first talking picture for Pathe, from the stage play by Arthur Richman; "Big News," in which Robert Armstrong and Carol Lombard are featured; "Sailor's Holiday," with Alan Hale and Sally Eilers.

In preparation are "The Racketeer"; the Russian play now tentatively titled "The Right to Kill," and "Oh Yeah."

Plans are going on very rapidly for the filming of the Tiffany-Stahl talking and singing production "Kathleen Mavourneen" starring Sally O'Neill. John M. Stahl has assigned Al Ray to direct the picture. The name of the man to play opposite Miss O'Neill will be announced shortly.

Margaret Wycherly, New York stage actress who has just been placed under contract by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, will have a featured part in the talking picturization of "The Thirteenth Chair." This film version of the play by Bayard Veiller, who wrote "The Trial of Mary Dugan," is scheduled to go into production soon.

Dorothy Lee, whose singing of "Do, Do Something" in "Syncopation" discovered her to the American public as something new and refreshing in the world of screen personalities, has been signed by William Le Baron to play one of the leading roles in "Rio Rita," Radio Pictures coming musical production. Dorothy is on her way to the Coast now. Bebe Daniels and John Boles are to play the leads in "Rio Rita." Others already cast are Bert Wheeler, Robert Woolsey, Helen Kaiser, Ned Sparks and Jack Oakie.

"Hard Boiled Hampton," a Manhattan brand all talking comedy produced by George LeMaire, with Harry Holman in the title role, is having a pre-release showing at the Mark Strand Theatre this week. Evalyn Knapp, coming from the ranks of the Pathe Pretties, is the leading lady. Others in the cast are: Doris McMahon, Alice Dunn and Andy Jochim.

William Haines, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer star, appearing in "A Man's Man."

"The Mighty," the story of a warrior of the city streets, whose love for fighting takes him to war "to have a good time," has been acquired by Paramount and will be produced as an all-talking picture starring George Bancroft, it was announced by Jesse L. Lasky, vice-president of Famous Lasky in charge of production. The story is an original by Robert N. Lee, author of "Cameo Kirby" and the screen play for the sensationally successful "Underworld," which brought stardom to Bancroft. "The Mighty" will be directed by John Cromwell.

At the Palace Theatre in London, "Mother's Boy," which stars Morton Downey, the famous tenor, is drawing crowded houses. It is the first singing-talking film to be shown at this theatre over the Klangfilm apparatus. Downey was discovered by Paul Whiteman who starred him as a vocalist when he brought his famous band to this country. Downey then studied singing in Italy, made a big hit in Berlin and Paris, and then returned to New York where he opened a night club.

It was not until the advent of Talking pictures that he was persuaded to make another public appearance.

Leonard Fields has been assigned to write the adaptation of the story, "The Devil's Prayer Book," written jointly by himself and Karl Brown. This story will be released by Universal under the title of "The Mississippi Gambler" as the first starring vehicle for Joseph Schildkraut.

Sally O'Neil, appearing in Tiffany Productions.

Robert Edeson, another veteran of the old screen days who has found fresh triumphs in the talkies, will play the part of the general in "Marianne," to be filmed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer with Marion Davies in the starring role.

Scene from "Molly and Me," a Tiffany Production, starring Belle Bennett.

"High Voltage," William Boyd's first all-talking picture is now available for booking, states Pathe. The story, probably the strongest dramatically in which Boyd has starred, is an original by Elliott Clawson. James Gleason prepared the dialogue and Howard Higgin directed. The locale is the snow-bound high Sierras.

Mal St. Clair, ace director, signed on the dotted line to transmit "The Night Parade," an all-talking, all musical feature, to the audible screen. It will follow "Side Street," which he is directing for Radio with Owen, Tom and Matt Moore playing together for the first time, and in the roles they play in life—brothers. Kathryn Perry, who is Mrs. Owen Moore in private life, has the leading feminine role.

Arthur Ripley and Edward Adamson are busily engaged in preparing dialogue and adapting the original lines of "Barnum Was Right." This production will get under way at Universal City next week with Glenn Tryon of "Broadway" fame in the stellar role. The megaphone will be handled by Del Lord.

William Haines, who plays the festive gob in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's new untitled navy romance, which Edward Sedgwick is directing, had to do the "Varsity drag" for the first time in his career. He danced it with Anita Page in the dance scene in the new picture, after he had been given special lessons on how to do it. In private life, Haines never goes to dances, and actually didn't know any of the steps.

WHEN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF REGAL FILMS LIMITED'S product for season 1929-1930 is made it will prove the most sensational in the history of the Film Industry in Canada.

During the season now coming to a close Regal Films Limited has distributed more real box office money-getters than any other company in the Dominion. This is not an idle boast, but a fact that can be proven by any one who will check up on the matter.

Not only will this supremacy be maintained next season, but the lead will be made greater.

Our advice is, don't sign for a single picture for season 1929-1930 until you have read the annual announcement of Regal Films Limited.

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